

Knights cruise to sweep in doubleheader

MARSHALL – The Russell-Tyler-Ruthton boys and girls basketball team closed out the day at Southwest Minnesota State University on Saturday with a doubleheader of their own. Both teams were able to come out victorious, with the RTR girls defeating Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda 81-28 and the RTR boys defeating Fulda 76-47.

Girls Basketball

RTR 81, HLO/F 28

By Emily Daniels
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MARSHALL – A strong first half that quickly carried into the second half was just what the Russell-Tyler-Ruthton girls basketball team needed to earn its fourth consecutive victory on Saturday with an 81-28 rout over Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda.

With a steady lead that held throughout the game, RTR coach Steve Krause saw that as an opportunity to be able to put in a variety of players from the bench and use their depth to their advantage.

“It was nice to get to play everybody, our depth was a really big part of us,” said Krause. “It helps us at practice. Everybody is capable of playing and it was nice to get everyone out on the floor. We played well but we’ve played better, but we played hard.”

The Knights entered the game looking to extend their recent win streak and were able to get out in the right direction with aggressive play on the offensive end of the floor, taking an early 12-4 lead. Jonni Biren was a big asset to the Knights offense, using strong ball handling skills and a good shot selection that helped RTR go on a 12-point run and give itself a 16-6 lead with 12:16 remaining in the first half.

With HLO/Fulda struggling to find any sort of



Top photo by Sam Thiel/Bottom photo by Emily Daniels

Top: RTR's Carter Hansen (22) and Tim Gilmore (10) guard Fulda's Tyler Madison during their game on Saturday.
Bottom: RTR's Shawna Thomsen drives around a HLO/Fulda defender during their game on Saturday.



rhythm on its offensive end, rebounding on both ends of the floor became a strong suit for the Knights, as multiple second-chance opportunities turned into points and a 32-9 lead for RTR with 9:29 left. The Knights continued to hold their ground on the defensive end, keeping the Coyotes off the board for a long stretch of the first half as RTR increased its advantage to 42-12 with 3:30 to go in the frame.

Brooke Thomsen helped the Knights immensely on offense throughout the final minutes of the first half, directing the plays and getting the ball movement going and RTR would take a commanding 55-16 lead at half-time.

Going into the second half, the Knights had a solid foundation built and wanted to continue the momentum they had seen throughout

RTR PAGE 3B

MSU too much for SMSU as Mustangs drop fourth straight

MANKATO – Minnesota State stayed atop the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference South Division standings pulling away in the second half and defeating Southwest Minnesota State 101-72 in men's basketball on Saturday night at the Taylor Center.

It's the fourth straight loss for SMSU which drops to 8-8 overall, 3-7 NSIC, while MSU improves to 12-4 overall, 8-2 NSIC.

MSU, which scored just 43 points and shot 23 percent in a home loss to Sioux Falls on Friday, finished tonight shooting 49 percent (37 of 76) from the field with 12 3-pointers. MSU, which committed just five turnovers, held a 47-38 rebound advantage. Cameron Kirksey led the Mavericks with 23 points and 10 rebounds.

Ryan Bruggeman scored a game-high 31 points for the Mustangs, connecting on 13 of 24 field goals. It's his sixth 30-point game of

the season and the eighth of his career. Taylor Schafer recorded three 3-pointers and finished with 15 points for the Mustangs, while Grant Kramer scored a career-high eight points with a career-high 11 rebounds. SMSU played without leading rebounder Steven McNease, who missed his third game in the last two weekends.

SMSU jumped out to a 10-4 in the first four minutes, but MSU answered back and regained the lead at 17-14 with 12:10 remaining.

MSU continued to maintain the lead before a pair of Kenny Byers free throws and a jumper from Schafer put the Mustangs in front at 22-21 with 8:25 left in the half.

The game remained tight for the next five minutes as SMSU trailed 37-34 with three minutes remaining following a Bruggeman layup, but MSU closed the half on an 11-4 run, including a final second 3-pointer

by Kevin Krieger to take a 48-38 halftime advantage.

MSU put the game away in the opening minutes of the second half scoring 13 of the first 15 points and held the Mustangs without a field goal for the first seven minutes in building a 65-43 lead.

The Mavericks held a 73-53 lead midway through the half before the Mustangs tried to make a comeback attempt, cutting the deficit to 76-62 following a Bruggeman jumper at the 7:50 mark. MSU answered with a 3-pointer to end the run and never looked back in defeating SMSU for the third straight time.

Southwest Minnesota State will look to snap its losing skid next Friday, hosting Minot State (7-12, 2-8 NSIC) with tip-off slated for 7:30 p.m. at the R/A Facility.

Content courtesy
of SMSU Athletic
Communications

Mustangs defeat Mavericks 88-73 to sweep season series

MANKATO – The Southwest Minnesota State women's basketball team defeated Minnesota State 88-73 for the first season series sweep of Minnesota State in school history.

Saturday's victory earned the Mustangs their seventh victory of the season for the first time since the 2010-2011 season.

SMSU (7-8, 4-6 NSIC) shot 45 percent from the field and 42 percent from the 3-point line, while MSU (5-9, 2-8 NSIC) shot 53 percent from the field and 36 percent from beyond the arc.

Meleah Reinhart led the Mustangs in scoring with 20 points and a ca-

reer-high five assists and six steals. Sadie Stelter added 18 points, Sarah Buysse with 16, and Jenna Borchers with 12, in the Mustangs' second victory over MSU after a 23-game losing streak previously broken on Dec. 7, 2018 with a 74-73 victory.

The Mustangs pushed to an early lead in the final two minutes of the first quarter with a five-point push to gain the Mustangs a 25-14 lead after the first quarter.

MSU came within three points at the start of the second quarter before Sarah Buysse scored 10 unanswered points to create an 11-point lead with 4:06 to go in the second.

The Mustangs had 12 points in the paint and created 11 points off of turnovers in the second quarter alone to head into the half with a five-point lead at 43-38.

The Mavericks scored the first basket of the second half before the Mustangs went for a 12-0 run to gain a 55-40 lead with seven minutes remaining in the third quarter, a lead SMSU would keep.

Southwest Minnesota State (7-8, 4-6 NSIC) host Minot State on Friday for a 5:30 p.m. start time in the R/A Facility.

Content courtesy
of SMSU Athletic
Communications

WWG/YME FROM PAGE 1B

Sting were able to get on the board thanks to a 3-pointer from Ishmon, but WWG cruised the rest of the way for the 71-46 victory.

WWG coach Derrick Jenniges said their communication was the key to their defensive pressure in the second half and their ability to create opportunities in transition on the other end of the floor.

“For us, it's a lot about communication; we're fortunate to have some length so that we can protect the rim a little bit, but I thought we did a great job of defensive rebounding to limit them to one possession for most of the second half,” Jenniges said. “Also at times during the game when we needed a little push we were able to mix it up and go to some different trap combinations and some zones in the halfcourt and that's something that we haven't done a lot of this year and something that we're looking to do more of in the second half of the season.”

Ethan Mischke led the way for the Chargers with 18 points while Nathan Ross added 16, Andrew Quade had 14 and Parker Freeburg chipped in 12. Mischke also led in rebounds with nine while Quade led in assists with nine.

Knapper led the way for the Sting with 18 points while Ishmon added 13 and Dalton Anderson had 10.

YME coach Jake Suter said despite their team having to adjust to some new roles after Carter Sneller was injured on Friday, he was pleased with how his team competed for the majority of the game.

“We were down our leading scorer and probably

our best defender in Carter Sneller; we found out on Friday that he broke his left wrist, so a couple of guys have to step up into new roles on the team and it's going to take a little bit of time to fill that void,” Suter said. “But I really liked what our guys did for stretches of the game. WWG went on a really nice run in the second half and that's really what kind of did us in.”

WWG (9-3) will face MCC today at 7:15 p.m. while YME will face Lakeview today at 7:15 p.m.

WWG 71, YME 46

YME 22 24 – 46
WWG 37 34 – 71

SCORING: WWG (Mischke 18; Ross 16; Quade 14; Freeburg 12; Christians 5; Kleven, Lien, Pilaczynski 2); YME (Knapper 18; Ishmon 13; Anderson 10; Chase 3; Johnson 2).
REBOUNDS: WWG 35 (Mischke 9); YME (NR).
ASSISTS: WWG 16 (Quade 4); YME (NR).
STEALS: WWG 10 (Quade 4); YME (NR).
BLOCKS: WWG 2; YME (NR).

Girls Basketball

YME 76, WWG 43

Both the Westbrook-Walnut Grove and Yellow Medicine East girls basketball teams entered their game Saturday with a couple of streaks. The Sting were hoping to keep theirs going and win their fifth straight game. The Chargers, meanwhile, were hoping to break theirs, as WWG came in with a four-game losing skid.

Thanks to a huge start, it was YME who kept their streak going in the right direction, as the Sting cruised to a 76-43 victory over the Chargers at the R/A Facility on the campus of Southwest Minnesota State University.

YME coach Ryan Schultz was proud of the way his team came together and executed throughout the game and felt the strong start fueled their performance.

“We've talked for most of the year about getting out to a good start because we haven't in past games, so that was kind of the focus and they came through and executed,” Schultz said. “They were having fun out there playing and you could tell they were really working together and I think that helped us keep going.”

Right off the opening tip, the Sting looked to seize control of the pace, jumping out to an early 5-0 lead. Thanks to some strong defensive play, that lead for YME quickly was pushed to double digits, ending in a 17-0 start for the Sting.

Meanwhile, WWG – who was held without a field goal for the first five minutes – was able to get on the board from beyond the arc with a 3-pointer from Grace Woelber, but YME answered right back with a 3-pointer from Lauren McCosh to push its lead back to 30-10 with 6:20 left.

The two teams would then trade points the rest of the first half as YME held a 43-18 advantage at the break.

After controlling the tempo of the game in the first half, the Sting looked to keep their feet on the gas pedal while WWG was in search of a spark on the offensive end. Both teams would trade points to begin the second half, but YME continued to maintain at least a 20-point lead at 61-31 with 11:14 left.

The Chargers wouldn't go down without a fight, however, and found its spark on the defensive end. With WWG able to put a string of stops together, the Chargers raced down the floor and capitalized on the offensive end, cutting the deficit to within 15.

Unfortunately for WWG, that would be the closest it would get, as YME ran down the clock the rest of the way on its way to the 76-43 victory.

WWG coach Adam



Photo by Sam Thiel

YME's Meeghen Dahlager surveys the floor during their game against WWG on Saturday. The Sting defeated the Chargers 76-43.

Kletscher said they were able to get into a small groove in the second half, but they need to play at a consistent level in both halves to get back into the win column.

“We knew coming in that YME is a pretty solid team and told the girls to come out and work hard and try to push the ball a little bit. We didn't do a very good job of that in the first half; in the second half we tried to push the ball a little more and it helped us get into a flow a little bit better,” Kletscher said. “We had good little spurts where things worked for us and then came down the next time and things didn't flow as well, so we need to kind of get that figured out. There's still a lot of season left, so we have to be able to limit those poor opportunities when things don't flow for us and build on those times when we get things clicking.”

Grace Woelber led the way for the Chargers with 16 points while Alli VandeKieft added six and Brittany Erickson had five. Camryn Bunting led in rebounds with 10 while Woel-

ber and Erickson led in assists with two each.

Madison Hinz led the way for the Sting with 17 points while Hannah Gullickson added 12 and Sam Anderson had 11 and Mackenzie Dyrdaahl had 10. Anderson and Gullickson led in rebounds with seven each while Hinz led in assists with seven.

YME (7-3) will face Dawson-Boyd on Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. while WWG (3-8) will face Edgerton on Tuesday at 7:15 p.m.

YME 76, WWG 43

YME 43 33 – 76
WWG 18 25 – 43

SCORING: WWG (Woelber 5-12, 4-5 16; VandeKieft 3-6, 0-0 6; Erickson 2-6, 0-1 5; Berglund 0-0, 4-6 4; Steen 2-5, 0-0 4; Jorgenson 1-3, 0-0 3; Byers 1-5, 0-2 2; Bunting 1-7, 0-0 2; DeSmith 0-0, 1-4 1); YME (Hinz 5-15, 3-4 17; Gullickson 6-12, 0-0 12; Anderson 4-10, 2-3, 11; Dyrdaahl 5-9, 0-0 10; McCosh 2-7, 4-6 9; Mortenson 1-2, 1-2 3).
REBOUNDS: WWG 20 (Bunting 10; Byers 3; Woelber, Steen 2; VandeKieft, Jorgenson, Erickson 1); YME 41 (Anderson, Gullickson 7; Mortenson 6; McCosh 5; Hinz 4; Dyrdaahl, Dahlager, Johnson 3).
ASSISTS: WWG 7 (Erickson, Woelber 2; Jorgenson, VandeKieft, Berglund 1); YME 24 (Hinz 7; Dahlager 6; Flores 4).
STEALS: WWG 5 (Berglund, Byers, Bunting, Erickson, Woelber 1); YME 9 (Hinz 3; Dahlager 2).
BLOCKS: WWG none; YME 5 (Gullickson 3; Flores, Mortenson 1).

THE WEEK AHEAD...

A look at what's on tap in area high school and college sports this week:



SATURDAY'S RESULTS...

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Mankato East 81, Marshall 69
RTR 76, Fulda 47
WWG 71, YME 46

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Marshall 63, Mankato East 48
RTR 81, HLO/F 28
YME 76, WWG 43

PREP GIRLS HOCKEY

Marshall 6, Minnesota River 2

PREP WRESTLING

Marshall at Big South Championships (see page 3B)
Zumbrota-Mazeppa 36, Minnesota 31
Minnesota 46, Wabasso/RRC 21
ACGC 45, Minnesota 22
Quad County at Minnewaska (NR)
TMB/WWG at Bemidji (see page 3B)

PREP DANCE

Marshall at Belle Plaine (NR)

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SMSU 88, MSU-Mankato 73

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

MSU-Mankato 101, SMSU 72

NCAA WRESTLING

Augsburg 32, SMSU 6

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Nebraska-Omaha Tournament
UW Whitewater 79, SMSU 55
SMSU 74, Nebraska-Omaha 64

TODAY

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Lakeview at YME, 7:15 p.m.
MCC at WWG, 7:15 p.m.
RTR at TMB, 7:15 p.m.
Sleepy Eye at Wabasso, 7:15 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Pipestone Area at Minnesota, 7:15 p.m.

PREP GIRLS HOCKEY

Marshall at Windom, 5 p.m.

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Marshall at Windom, 7 p.m.



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